Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

About
Met Office
Hadley Centre
Terms and conditions
Advertise on our site

News
News release archive
Media Centre

Learn
About the weather
From the bookshelf

Services

Mobile text forecasts
Weathercall
Marinecall
Mountain weather
MetWEB
Talk to a forecaster

Links
Met Office data users
National met. services
Scientific interest sites
EA Floodline
Directgov
Freedom of Information

Contact
Contact us
Questions answered

Warm fronts as Brits go online for weather

22 March 2001

Release number 465

The changeable weather is driving Brits indoors and online - nearly five and a half million visits are being made to the Met Office web site every month.

And we really are a nation obsessed with the weather - average time spent on the site checking out forecasts and satellite maps is nearly 15 minutes. That's quite a while when you consider the average time spent in one session surfing the web by users in the UK is less than half an hour overall.

The Met Office site was recently revamped and is today (Friday 23 March) being relaunched as www.metoffice.com, to coincide with World Meteorology Day.

The site has been going down a storm with Internet aficionados and customers alike. They've praised its ease of use, interesting facts, figures and diagrams and its useful services that include…

…worldwide weather conditions, such as:

- tropical cyclone bulletins for those worried about their Caribbean break
- five day forecasts for cities around the world
- past weather characteristics throughout the year for the real 'anoraks' among us
- and there's even satellite images of current weather conditions so you can pretend to be Sîan Lloyd and present the weather to your friends and colleagues

…UK weather, including:

- three-day weather forecast for regions
- five-day forecasts for key towns across the country
- severe weather warnings (floods, snow etc.)

Plus:

- you can learn the difference between an isobar and a millibar through Met Office training courses
- subscribe to fax and phone weather forecasting services
- view MetWEB - you can see what it's actually like outdoors - should you be taking your waterproofs for a walk instead of your parasol
- and you can talk to a weatherman at their main forecasting centre.

You can also subscribe online to its award-winning mobile phone weather forecasting service Time & Place, which was launched before Christmas, and which already has nearly 7,000 users to date as well as scooping commendations for innovation from experts in the mobile communications industry.

The Time & Place service provides weather updates to mobile phone users down to a 3 mile or 5 km radius anywhere in the UK, via WAP or SMS across all mobile networks. Forecasts can be specific down to home or work address, or even areas such as the local golf club. Just log onto www.metoffice.com or call the Customer Centre and you can arrange for text messages to be sent to your phone as and when you require it, for wherever you want in the UK.

There's a variety of information options, from latest data, on the hour, every hour if required, UK weather forecasts for up to five days ahead as well as the 'World Cities' forecast which gives a five-day weather prediction for over 400 major cities across the globe.

WAP users can access the forecasting facilities by going to www.mymetoffice.com/main.wml via your WAP phone.

For more information about these services please call the Customer Centre on 0870 900 5454 or visit www.metoffice.com.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

© Crown copyright